

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: October 8 -14, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

THE WEEKLY HAS A NEW LOOK!

Based on inquires over the past six months, FWP has made an effort to streamline the wolf weekly. FWP will continue to report significant program developments when they arise and offer easy to access weekly reports on wolf-livestock conflicts, wolf capture and collaring activities, and wolf mortalities.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

The challenge to the Congressional rider allowing delisting of wolves continues before the 9th Circuit. Oral arguments are scheduled for November 8th. On October 14th the department filed an amicus brief on the merits of the wolf case. On October 17th, the Plaintiffs' filed a motion for preliminary injunction requesting relief (i.e., an end to the wolf hunt) prior to the oral argument scheduled for November 8th. The 9th Circuit ordered today (October 18) that the request for relief prior to oral argument has been denied and the motion will be considered on November 8th. The department will be filing another amicus brief opposing the stay on October 28th.

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK CONFLICTS

Date	General Area (County)	Pack Name	Livestock Type and # (injured livestock (i), probable kills (p) or confirmed kills (c))					Land Type	Authorized Control Action
			Cattle	Sheep	Goat/Llama	Horse	Dog		
10/2	Radersburg (Broadwater)	Unnamed	1c					Public	Collar and release 1 / Remove wolves returning to site
10/10	Sanders	Corona	1ic					Plum Creek	None
10/13	Helena (Elkhorn Mtns)	Unnamed	2i					Private	Attempt to collar and release
2011 Running Total*			77	12	0	1	6		

WOLF CAPTURE, COLLARING, REMOVAL ACTIVITIES

Date	General Area (County)	Pack Name	Capture/Collaring			Lethal Removal (# wolves)		Control Action - ongoing/completed	Other Mortalities (by cause)
			FWP (monitoring/research)	WS	Other (tribal/incidental)	WS	Landowner		
9/30	Lincoln	Lazy Creek						Ground/aerial	1 vehicle
10/3	Flathead	Dutch							1 unknown (possible avalanche)
10/4	Lincoln	Bearfite							1 suspected illegal
10/14	Park	Brackett Creek	3						
2011 Running Total*			24	10	5	47	10		17**

*There is often a lag time between activities and reporting due to ongoing investigations. Running tallies are estimates based on known data at the time of 'wolf weekly' publication and may not match final annual report numbers.

**Other mortalities to date include vehicle and train kills, illegal take, other human caused mortalities and natural mortalities.